

5-STAR SAFETY RATINGS FOR THE FUTURE

RATINGS SYSTEM HISTORY



Overview

NHTSA's 5-Star Safety Ratings program tests and rates new vehicles. The program helps consumers understand the results of our crash-testing so they can make informed safety decisions when buying a new car or truck. We update our ratings regularly to encourage automakers to deliver safety innovations that save lives and prevent injuries on our roads.

1978

Begins testing and rating vehicles for frontal impact protection using data from crash test dummies.

1996

Begins testing and rating vehicles for side impact protection.

2003

Updates rollover tests to better simulate real-world rollover crashes.

2006

Requires that window labels on new vehicles include 5-Star Safety Ratings information.

2011

Updates the 5-Star safety ratings on new-vehicle window labels to include the overall vehicle score, making it easier for consumers to compare vehicles.

2015

Adds automatic emergency braking systems to the list of recommended technologies to help prevent rear-end crashes or reduce the impact speed of those crashes.

1993

Provides consumer-friendly information to help consumers make informed safety choices when buying new vehicles. One star is the lowest rating and five stars the highest. More stars equal safer cars.

2000

Begins testing vehicles for resistance to rollover crashes, which are more dangerous than other types of crashes.

2004

Launches Safercar.gov so consumers can search for 5-Star Safety Ratings and find other important highway safety information in one place.

2010

Enhanced 5-Star Safety Ratings take effect with 2011 model year vehicles, and include an overall vehicle score and a listing of advanced recommended safety technologies.

2013

Adds backup cameras to the list of recommended technologies to help prevent backover incidents.



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